PROMOTION & RETENTION

whether to retain or promote policies are for determining district to find out what the child succeed. Contact your summer school, to help the after school programs or such as tutoring, before or come up with interventions, work with the teacher to notified so that they can year. The parents are identified early in the school risk of retention are level proficiency. Children at have not achieved graderetained, or held back, if they grade. Students can be being promoted to the next grade-level standards before students meet certain The law requires that all

HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM Beginning in 2004,

your child.

eligible to begin taking it, contact the district. more about the exam and when your child is to take the exam prior to graduation. To find out Students will be given a number of opportunities a high school exit exam in order to graduate. all high school seniors will be required to pass

LANGUAGE Children **ENGLISH AS A SECOND**

teacher child and your child's who can work with your about tutors or mentors Check with your district English need extra help. who are learning to speak

> grades due to absence if the work that was missed it is necessary. The district cannot reduce your child's child home when ill, or for whatever reason you feel in school. However, you have the right to keep your ATTENDANCE For children to learn, they must be

parents work full-time and need before **AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS Many**

educational or recreational programs. are available. Some schools have on-site district can help you find what programs If you need care before or after school, the and after school care for their children.

to find out what's available. are available to all children. Check with your school provide breakfast, lunch and snacks. These programs state- and federally-funded food programs which FOOD PROGRAMS There are a number of

and what the standards how your child is tested To find out when and teacher judgement. regular assessment and through periodic testing, standards is determined is meeting grade-level Whether or not your child

TESTING & ASSESSMENT

are, contact the district.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS are

and summer school programs. after school educational, tutoring Ask the district about before and and meet grade-level standards. available to help your child keep up

> The most important thing to remember is that be in contact with your issues and to help you know what questions to ask. 4 years old, you should a general guideline to alert you to some important information you need to know. It is intended as By the time your child is this guide can help you with some of the basic in school is the first step. If your child attends one of California's public schools, Enrolling your child THIS BROCHURE IS DESIGNED WITH THE PARENT IN MIND.

school district to find out

what the requirements

In order to be enrolled are for enrollment.

child must be 5 years into Kindergarten, your

old by December 2 of

that school year.

at any public school office.

brochures are available

Enrollment. Forms and

your child through Open

attend, you can enroll

up-to-date shot records

legal birth certificate,

required to provide a

want your child to

child, you will be

When you enroll your

the chicken pox vaccine. required to have had

entering kindergarten are

immunizations. All children

be up-to-date on all required

of enrollment, your child must

emit and the time

are new to an area, contact the County Office of

you need to know, contact the school district. If you

on state and federal law. To find out exactly what

each school district sets its own policies, based

the district or the questions, contact Requirements can change; status. If you have

contact your district for the

current requirements.

district for help in establishing an appropriate address. If you do not If your child has special needs, contact the and proof of your home

area of the school you educational plan for your child. Special needs can live in the attendance

include physical disabilities, speech or hearing

speech and language difficulties. If you think your impairments, emotional or behavioral problems or

have questions about what services are available, child might need help, contact the district. If you

contact the California Department of Education,

Special Education Division.

Education.

U.S. Department of

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All children who

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Education.

FINANCIAL AID It is never too early to start thinking about how to pay for your child's college. If your child is in high school, it is time to start checking into what kind of financial aid is available and whether your child might be eligible. Contact the district or your local community college financial aid office.

RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Educationwww.ed.gov400 Maryland Avenue, SW800.USA.LEARNWashington, DC 20202-0498[800.872.5327]

California Department of Education www.cde.ca.gov 1430 N Street 916.319.0800 Sacramento, CA 95814

[for copies of birth records] select "services" MS5103, P.O. Box 997410 916.445.2684 Sacramento, CA 95899-7410

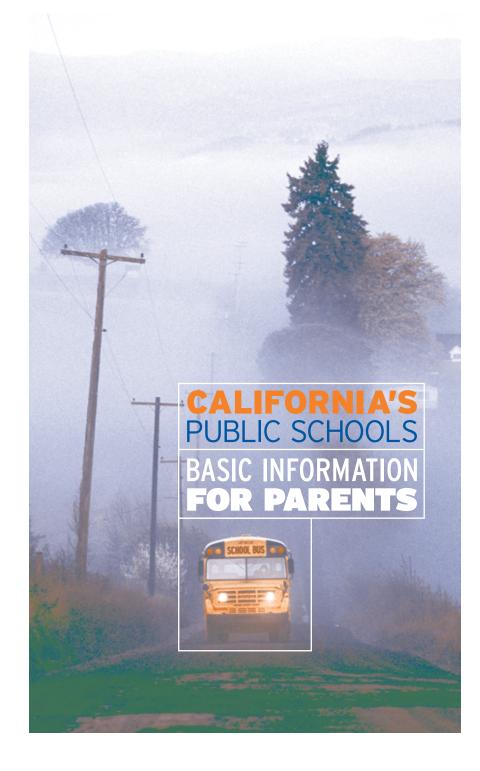
COURTESY OF **SENATOR CHRISTINE KEHOE**



CAPITOL OFFICE State Capitol Room 3086 Sacramento, CA 95814-4900 tel 916.445.3952

DISTRICT OFFICE 2445 Fifth Avenue, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92101 tel 619.645.3133

senator.kehoe@sen.ca.gov www.sen.ca.gov/kehoe



THIS BROCHURE IS DESIGNED WITH THE PARENT IN MIND. If your child attends one of California's public schools, this guide can help you with some of the basic information you need to know. It is intended as a general guideline to alert you to some important issues and to help you know what questions to ask.

The most important thing to remember is that each school district sets its own policies, based on state and federal law. To find out exactly what you need to know, contact the school district. If you are new to an area, contact the County Office of Education.

IMMIGRATION

All children who enroll in public school must be accepted. It is against the law to deny any child enrollment into public school based on immigration status. If you have questions, contact the district or the U.S. Department of Education.

immunization At the time of enrollment, your child must be up-to-date on all required immunizations. All children entering kindergarten are required to have had the chicken pox vaccine. Requirements can change; contact your district for the current requirements.

If your child has special needs, contact the district for help in establishing an appropriate educational plan for your child. Special needs can include physical disabilities, speech or hearing impairments, emotional or behavioral problems or speech and language difficulties. If you think your child might need help, contact the district. If you have questions about what services are available, contact the California Department of Education, Special Education Division.

Enrolling your child

in school is the first step.
By the time your child is
4 years old, you should
be in contact with your
school district to find out
what the requirements
are for enrollment.
In order to be enrolled
into Kindergarten, your
child must be 5 years
old by December 2 of
that school year.

When you enroll your child, you will be required to provide a legal birth certificate, up-to-date shot records and proof of your home address. If you do not live in the attendance area of the school you want your child to attend, you can enroll your child through Open Enrollment. Forms and brochures are available at any public school office.

ATTENDANCE For children to learn, they must be in school. However, you have the right to keep your child home when ill, or for whatever reason you feel it is necessary. The district cannot reduce your child's grades due to absence if the work that was missed is made up.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS Many

parents work full-time and need before and after school care for their children. If you need care before or after school, the district can help you find what programs are available. Some schools have on-site educational or recreational programs.

FOOD PROGRAMS There are a number of state- and federally-funded food programs which provide breakfast, lunch and snacks. These programs are available to all children. Check with your school to find out what's available.

TESTING & ASSESSMENT

Whether or not your child is meeting grade-level standards is determined through periodic testing, regular assessment and teacher judgement. To find out when and how your child is tested and what the standards are, contact the district.

all high school seniors will be required to pass a high school exit exam in order to graduate. Students will be given a number of opportunities to take the exam prior to graduation. To find out more about the exam and when your child is eligible to begin taking it, contact the district.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS are available to help your child keep up

and meet grade-level standards.

Ask the district about before and after school educational, tutoring and summer school programs.

PROMOTION & RETENTION

The law requires that all students meet certain grade-level standards before being promoted to the next grade. Students can be retained, or held back, if they have not achieved gradelevel proficiency. Children at risk of retention are identified early in the school year. The parents are notified so that they can work with the teacher to come up with interventions, such as tutoring, before or after school programs or summer school, to help the child succeed. Contact your district to find out what the policies are for determining whether to retain or promote HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM Beginning in 2004,

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE Children who are learning to speak English need extra help. Check with your district about tutors or mentors who can work with your child and your child's teacher.